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UNTRUTHFUL ATTACKS ON THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, a favorite "sport" now current among various groups, which appears to be growing in volume, is to attack the Central Intelligence Agency.

These charges are made by many people, including enemy aliens in defense of their activities, and those who have been charged with illegal activities. From the standpoint of sport, at times it would appear comparable to shooting fish in a barrel, because the nature of the work of the CIA means it cannot defend itself.

In this connection I present to the Senate this morning three examples.

THE CHRISTENSEN CASE

After Col. James R. Christensen retired from the Marine Corps, he was considered for employment by the Central Intelligence Agency; and a normal security investigation resulted in security approval last January.

All prospective employees, however, must also go through a physical examination. This examination does not involve the administering of any drugs.

When Colonel Christensen received this routine physical examination last January 10, it was determined that his high blood pressure would probably prevent employment. His condition was discussed with him on January 18 by two staff physicians. At that time it was suggested he seek medical treatment. Christensen had been evaluated by the psychiatric staff January 12, and found suitable for employment.

On January 20, based on the preemployment medical evaluation of high blood pressure, Colonel Christensen was not qualified for employment for medical reasons. At no time was he given any drugs of any sort by the Agency.

On January 26 police officers in Virginia Beach, Va., determined that Colonel Christensen had committed suicide.

Colonel Christensen's wife has now brought suit against the Central Intelligence Agency for negligence, alleging that Colonel Christensen had been given drugs by the Agency; and that the reaction from the drugs had led to his suicide.

The U.S. Government will, of course, be represented in this action by the Department of Justice.

THE CASTRO CASE

According to a newspaper story of June 1 last, Castro is charging that Cuban exiles who tried to slip into Havana Sunday night were sent by the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Premier Castro. The story identified one Antonio de la Cuesta Valle as the military commander of a group called Commandos L. The Cuban announcement charged that Commandos L is a front for CIA.

This charge has been carefully explored. The facts are that Commandos L has received no support or guidance whatever from the CIA; and is in no way a front for the Agency. Furthermore, Antonio de la Cuesta Valle has no connection with the CIA. Whatever his activities in this enterprise, they were not carried out at the instigation or direction of the Agency.

Castro has been pretty much out of the news. He is anxious to get back in the news. The CIA and Guantanamo are his favorite subjects to that end.

It is time for the press and the public to realize that it suits the convenience of Castro and other Communist agents and criminals to accuse the CIA when they get in trouble. The featuring of said charges without effort to check their accuracy reduces the security of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator may be permitted to proceed for 3 additional minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SYMINGTON. I thank the majority leader.

THE HAWKE CASE

Mr. President, an ex-RAF pilot, one John R. Hawke, is currently under indictment in the United States for illegally exporting B-26 planes to Portugal.

As early as November 1965, British newspapers carried the story that Hawke was actually acting for the Central Intelligence Agency in piloting these planes; and again, on May 9, 1966, a national magazine in the United States carried a story which quoted Hawke as saying he was a special project airman for the CIA; that his defense will center on that claim.

This assertion on the part of Hawke is not true. There is no information of any sort which can connect Hawke's activities with the CIA.

What this all comes down to was well stated by a United States attorney when he said that Hawke plans to make what soon will be the standard defense in all such criminal cases—that it was part of a plot of the CIA.

I will shortly present more illustrations of such charges against this agency before the Senate.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SYMINGTON. I am glad to yield to my able and distinguished friend, the senior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. SALTONSTALL].

Mr. SALTONSTALL. I commend the Senator for bringing out these instances. I know that under the rules and regulations it is impossible for the CIA to answer any of these charges and, therefore, the charges, which are incorrect, and in many instances are falsehoods,

are carried through and given publicity without any opportunity for the CIA to reply.

Mr. SYMINGTON. The senior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. SALTONSTALL] is one of three Members of this body who know more about the structure and functioning of the Central Intelligence Agency than any other Member. Therefore, I particularly appreciate his support with respect to this problem.

It is most unfortunate that charges of this character are given the publicity with little or no effort to check their accuracy.

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